RI Council on Postsecondary Education

80 Washington St., 2nd Floor
Providence, RI 02903
401-736-1100 | TDD: 401-734-9481
www.riopc.edu

AGENDA

Special Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education- Fall Retreat

Date: **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**
Time: **8:30 a.m.**
Location: **Rhode Island College, Alger Hall, Room 110**
600 Mount Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908
Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81045375437

Acceptance of the Agenda

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **System Overview**

Commissioner Shannon Gilkey will begin the retreat by providing an overview of the Council's five system initiatives, including framing for these priorities for the Council's governing responsibilities for the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

Discussion Items

10:00a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Strategic Initiative 1: Financial Framework & Facilities Utilization**

Session Description: This session will feature a discussion on the ongoing development of a comprehensive reporting framework designed to assess each institution's financial health. The framework is intended to support and promote data informed decision making by state HE executives, policymakers, legislators, and accrediting bodies.

Session Objectives:

- Review the financial challenges faced by higher education at the national level, as well as the unique challenges at CCRI and RIC
- Review and discuss the process, goals, and current progress on the Financial Sustainability project
- Evaluate the financial/operational adjustments at the colleges designed to improve and support financial health
- Understand the process, goals, and current progress on the Facilities Utilization project

Moderator: Dr. Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academics & Student Affairs, OPC

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Panelists:

- Dr. Dan Greenstein, Sustainability Lead, National Association of System Heads and State Higher Ed Executive Officers Association

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. **Strategic Initiative 2: Retention & Completion**

Session Description: Dramatically improving time to degree and retention offers an opportunity to ensure that RI has not only the talent that is required to combat the demographic shifts into our workforce but also will provide students a greater return on their postsecondary education efforts; accelerating time to entry into the workforce and decreasing their educational investment. Through a commitment to a systemwide effort to identify and implement strategies to improve student success across RI's public higher education system, this session will focus on student retention and graduation rates.

Session Objectives:

- Receive an overview of the retention and completion trends at CCRI and RIC
- Discuss the factors that influence student persistence and completion
- Set the North Star for each metric

Moderator: Dr. Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academics & Student Affairs, OPC

Panelists:

- Julie Horwitz, Interim Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff to the Provost, RIC
- Cindy Kozil, VP Student Success, RIC
- Greg LaPointe, Executive VP & Chief Strategy Officer, CCRI
- Dr. Valerie Endress, Provost & VP for Academic Affairs, RIC

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Working Lunch: Strategic Initiative 3: Security & Safety Assessment**

Session Description: This past year, campus security actions taken by the Council and the State of Rhode Island led to two projects to ensure that CCRI and RIC have the support they need to continuously improve campus security measures on campuses, and ensure the State of Rhode Island deepens coordination across all twelve institutions of higher education.

Moderator: Anne Marie Coleman, Esq., Assistant Commissioner of HR & Labor Relations, OPC

Panelists: Joseph Reppucci, Project Manager, Jensen Hughes

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Session Objectives:

- Review and discuss the summary of the active threat tabletop exercises conducted across ten institutions of higher education
- Provide an overview of the status and timeline for completion of the campus safety and security study for RIC and CCRI

Pre Read/Prep Material:

- RI Higher Education Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Statewide Executive Preparedness Assessment
- Memo Re: Distribution of RI HE AHSER Assessment

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Strategic Initiative 4: System-Wide ERP**

Session Description: This session will provide an overview of the work completed over the past twelve months by a cross functional team from CCRI, RIC, AND OPC, on behalf of the Council, to acquire and implement a single instance Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) across the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

Session Objectives:

- Review the context related to the recommendation of a single instance, ERP on including rationale, potential cost/benefit analysis, and future integration of shared services at CCRI and RIC that will serve Rhode Islander students by increasing productivity and streamlining business efficiencies
- Discuss the systems that will be upgraded and the complexity of implementation and the necessary ingredients to ensure this system initiative is successful
- Provide the Council with an overview of the status and delivery plan

Moderator: Anne Marie Coleman, Esq., Assistant Commissioner of HR & Labor Relations, OPC

Panelists:

- Jim Bradley, Chief Information Officer, CCRI
- Brian Kenney, Assistant Vice President and Chief Information Officer, RIC

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Strategic Initiative 5: Delegated Purchasing**,

Session Description: The panel will examine opportunities to strengthen the Council's delegated purchasing authority and support more efficient procurement across Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

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Discussion will focus on current strengths and challenges, the capabilities and safeguards needed to support expanded authority, opportunities for shared services and systemwide coordination, and the implications for institutional operations and the student experience.

Session Objective: To provide the Council with an understanding of the current procurement environment and systemwide approaches needed to support expanded delegated purchasing authority.

Moderator: Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer, OPC

Panelists:

- Christoph Demers, Chief Financial Officer, CCRI
- Meghan Hamlin-Black, Director, Financial Strategy & Planning, OPC
- Tim Mould, Principal Director, Accenture
- Anatasia Rodriguez, Vice President for Administration & Finance, CCRI

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Business Items**

Action Item

A. Approval of the minutes of the August 19, 2026, Council Meeting.

B. Approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education 2027 meeting schedule, including the committee schedule.

C. Approval of the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2028, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2028 and recommendation for approval by the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Adjourn